

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES



NEWS RELEASE

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Prince William Sound Salmon Fishery News Release #17

SEINE FISHERIES: Aerial surveys of the Eastern, Northern and Southeastern districts are ongoing. Early season indicators of wild stock chum and pink salmon run entry and escapement in the Northern, Eastern, and Southeastern districts do not support a CPF targeting wild stock salmon at this time. VFDA is in the process of conducting cost recovery for pink salmon in Port Valdez. Pink salmon harvest on Sunday, July 1 was approximately 76,551 fish with an average weight of approximately 4.3 pounds per fish and a 27% female sex ratio. Cumulative VFDA cost recovery is 1,010,749 pounds through July 1, or 23% of a final goal of 4.4 million pounds.

EASTERN DISTRICT: Waters of the Eastern District north of the latitude of Rocky Point will open to commercial purse seine fishing for a 14-hour period starting at 6:00 am on Wednesday, July 4. Waters of Port Valdez east of 146° 30.62' W. longitude will be closed to commercial fishing during this period. Waters of Galena Bay, Jack Bay and Sawmill Bay inside the Salmon Harvest Task Force markers will be closed to commercial fishing during this period. Anadromous stream closures south of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point **will be in effect**. Anadromous stream closures north of a line from Potato Point to Entrance Point **will not be in effect**. It is anticipated that cost recovery fishing will resume on July 5 and 6, with a second potential commercial opening occurring on Saturday, July 7. Time and area for said opening will be announced at a later date.

The next scheduled salmon fisheries announcement is anticipated to be at 2:00 pm Wednesday, July 4.

Permit holders are advised that unscheduled announcements based on current escapement data may occur at any time inseason either establishing an additional period or extending an open period.

Announcement recordings are available for **gillnet fisheries at 907-424-7535 and seine fisheries at 907-424-7345. In addition, announcement recordings are available in Anchorage at 267-2843.**

Additionally, announcements, inseason harvest data, and escapement data are available at the following web addresses:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.main> (Copper River homepage) or
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareapws.main> (Prince William Sound homepage).

Unless otherwise specified, all openings are clock openings based on Alaska Daylight Time, which is based on Coordinated Universal Time and may be obtained by calling 303-499-7111.

The department encourages commercial permit holders to renew their licenses early and to check their CFEC vessel registration stickers to make sure that they are current.

The department also encourages permit holders to report observed violations to Wildlife Safeguard at 800-478-3377. Reports are anonymous and cash rewards may be paid for successful prosecution of violations.